

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Joint Patent Application of  
MCNIE et al

Serial No. 10/565,017

Filed: January 19, 2006

For: VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATOR

Atty. Ref.: SCS-124-1144

TC/A.U.: 2883

Examiner: M. El Shammaa

Allowed:

Confirmati 5227

\* \* \* \* \*

December 13, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

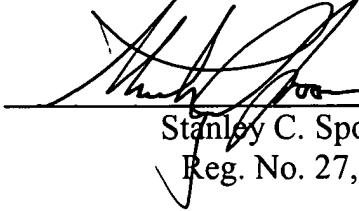
All listed documents are attached.  
 Copies of U.S. Patent Publications are not required and are not attached.  
 Listed foreign patent publications and other documents are enclosed.  
 The listed documents were cited in the ISR and copies should have been supplied by WIPO directly to the US PTO. If copies are not timely received from WIPO, please telephone the undersigned so that copies can be timely supplied for the Examiner's consideration in this US National Phase Application.

This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO/SB/08a and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached reference has been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

Stanley C. Spooner  
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:kmm  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100